

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, here's the difference between both sides. Following my colleague, who says this administration, this President, what he fails to mention is that the Democrat majority in this House for the past 2 years is part of the problem. I recognize that.

Here is the price of a barrel of crude oil when President Bush came in: \$23 a barrel. Here's the price of a barrel of crude oil when this Democrat majority came in: \$58 a barrel. Today it's at \$103. We can't sustain that. We can blame everybody we want, but this is a problem we can't sustain.

Drill, baby, drill. Here's the Outer Continental Shelf. They want to only to do 20 percent, maybe. They can't even get an agreement on what they want. This whole area should be open for exploration recovery of oil and gas in our country to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil and lower prices, and they don't have a clue. They'll continue to say "no" to oil and gas exploration.

They won't even address coal as part of the solution. Coal is the greatest resource we have in this country.

I want to drill, baby, drill, and I want to mine coal.

IF YOU WANT CHANGE, YOU WANT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's a bit confusing sometimes to listen to the rhetoric. The Republicans have had the Presidency now for nearly 8 years, and they have had the majority in this House since 1994, I think. And if you watched the Republican convention, you would think they were the Democrats talking about change and the problems we have in Washington. They're so against Washington, it's the Washington they have created and cultivated. And the corruption that we've seen here has mostly been on that particular side of the aisle. The failure of our having a children's health plan, which this country should have as a cornerstone of its policy, was the fault of the Republican side that was more interested in tobacco interests than children's interests. And too many times we see the corporate interests of the oil corporations take over the interests of the American society and getting us to be truly energy independent.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the parties have differences, but if you want change, you want the Democratic Party. BARACK OBAMA was a community organizer like Jesus, whom our minister prayed about. Pontius Pilate was a Governor.

ENERGY

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it's been 5 weeks since we have been in session here on the House floor. But there have been many of us that have been on this floor throughout the month of August. We have talked directly with the American people about the immediate need for comprehensive energy legislation. And during August, it became crystal clear that there's a disconnect between what is happening on the streets of America and what is happening here in Washington, DC.

One day my colleague was talking and in a moment of doubt and frustration, he said, "I don't even know if anybody is listening," to which somebody stood up on the floor here and said, "America is listening, Congressman. America is listening." And he was right.

The American people are hurting. At a gas station in North Augusta, South Carolina, one gentleman, a special needs gentleman, came up to me and said, "Congressman, I can only afford \$39 of gas, half a tank, because that's all I have and that's got to do me."

What are we doing to help this gentleman?

Mr. Speaker, let's quit the partisanship. This is an American problem and we need American solutions. Comprehensive legislation, all of the above.

REPUBLICAN FAILURES ON THE ECONOMY; WE CANNOT AFFORD MORE OF THE SAME

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Americans everywhere are paying the high price of 7 years of failed Republican economic policies that have favored the wealthiest few and the big corporations at the expense of middle class families, including in my State of Maryland.

Today, 3.4 million more Americans are unemployed than when President Bush took office 7 years ago. This year alone more than 600,000 jobs have been lost. Economists estimate that our economy must create at least 150,000 jobs every month. Well, this administration hasn't done that.

The job losses that have occurred on President Bush's watch stand in stark contrast to the millions of jobs created under President Clinton's economy back in the 1990s. Over this same 8-month period in Clinton's second term, the economy created 1.4 million jobs, and we have lost 600,000 jobs under this administration just this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, for 6 years straight, Washington Republicans implemented economic policies that favored the interests of Wall Street over the interests of Main Street. It's time for a dramatic change, one that takes us away from the failed Republican policies of the last 8 years and enables us to really tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

THE FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE DEMOCRATS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when I first came to the Congress, I was appalled at the comments that were being made on the other side. Having come from a legislative position, I was not used to people getting up and telling out-and-out boldfaced untruths. It has been a real learning experience for me, but that has continued particularly in the last 2 years with our colleagues on the other side. They stand up here and try to blame what has happened in this country in the last 2 years on the President of the United States when the Democrats are in charge of the Congress.

One of the best things we accomplished during the month of August, when Republicans stood on this floor for 5 weeks while Democrats were on vacation, was call attention to the fact that the Democrats are in charge. The failed economic policies of the past 2 years belong strictly to the Democrats because they have allowed gas prices to double and they have done absolutely nothing.

Now they're bringing up a bill they say that's going to do something about gas prices. Well, I think that bill will probably deserve the "Emperor's New Clothes" award and somebody is going to have to say that.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, while some in the minority party and in the Presidential race are trying to recast themselves as agents of change, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Republicans controlled this House for the first 6 years of the Bush administration and in the past 2 years they have done little more than obstruct our attempts to correct the misguided policies of the past.

In the past 8 years, the number of Americans living without health insurance has increased by more than 7 million. Today nearly one in nine children lack health insurance. After retaking control of Congress, we tried not once but twice to ensure that 10 million children had access to health care through the Children's Health Insurance Program, which serves families that are working hard and playing by the rules but can't afford health care for their kids. And although we were able to pass the bill through Congress, President Bush vetoed it twice and Senator MCCAIN recently said that was the right decision.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together to find ways to improve our health care system, especially for our children. More of the same just won't do.